Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the "Description of the Preferred Embodiments" with the following amended description:

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In the following description, like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views. Also in the following description, it is to be understood that such terms as "forward," "rearward," "left," "right," "upwardly," "downwardly," and the like are words of convenience and are not to be construed as limiting terms.

Referring now to the drawings in general and Figure 1 in particular, it will be understood that the illustrations are for the purpose of describing a preferred embodiment of the invention and are not intended to limit the invention thereto. As best seen in Figure 1, a flexible tool and parts tray, generally designated 10, is shown constructed according to the present invention. The flexible tool and parts tray 10 includes a generally rectangular flexible pad 12 forming a tool area for supporting tools. The upper surface the flexible pad 12 may include ridges 26 for retaining tools in the tool area and the bottom surface of the pad 12 includes serrations 28 for holding the tool tray 10 on a work surface such as the top of a vehicle engine.

The tray 10 also includes at least one parts area 16 including at least one rectangular-shaped parts tray 20 having vertical sides 22 for holding small parts such as nuts, washers, bolts and other small parts included in vehicle engines. The parts tray 20 may also include a magnetic sheet 24 for retaining such small parts in the tray 20.

Turning now to Figure 2, an enlarged view of the front corner, as shown in Figure 1, of the tray 10 is shown. The tray 10 includes at least one pair of rigid rods, such as the rod 14, (also shown in hidden view in Figures 1 and 5) extending substantially the length of the pad 12 and parallel to opposite sides of the pad 12. In the embodiment shown, a rod 14 is present proximate each of the opposite sides of the tool area of the tray 10 and another present proximate each of two opposing outer sides of the pad 12. These rods 14 reduce the flexibility of the pad along the direction parallel to the rods 14 while, at the same time, permit flexibility of the pad 12 along the direction perpendicular to the rods 14. The rigid rods may be metal rods having a diameter

between about 1/16 inch and 1/8 inch. Figure 3 shows the flexibility of the tray in the direction perpendicular to the rods and the rigidity of the tray in the direction parallel to the rods.

Figure 4 is a front perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a tool tray 110 showing a receptacle 112 for installing an upright frame to provide a rest for a gauge. Such an upright frame may also support an illumination device, a multi-meter, or other tool, gauge, device or apparatus. Also shown in Figure 4 is an interior wall 114 at least partially defining a recess for holding a specific part in the parts area of the tool tray.

Figure 5 is a front view of a tool tray showing a magnet 126, in hidden view, for holding the tool tray 210 to a metal surface such as a vehicle fender. The tool tray may include a plurality of magnets near the bottom of the tray as shown.

Certain modifications and improvements will occur to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the foregoing description. By way of example, the tool area could be place where the parts area is shown, or vice versa, or arranged in other desirable places on the tool tray. Also, the tool tray could be round, oval or other various desirable shapes. It should be understood that all such modifications and improvements have been deleted herein for the sake of conciseness and readability but are properly within the scope of the following claims.

Please replace the "Abstract of the Disclosure" with the following amended abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A ~~flexible~~ tool tray~~, the~~ apparatus including~~: (a)~~ a ~~generally rectangular~~ flexible pad ~~forming a tool area for supporting tools; (b)~~ and a plurality of spaced apart, rigid rods connected to the pad ~~extending substantially the length of the pad and parallel to opposite sides of the pad for reducing flexibility of the pad along the direction parallel to the rods while, at the same time, permitting flexibility of the pad along the direction perpendicular to the rods; (c) at least one pair of spaced apart rigid rods adjacent opposite ends of said tool area extending substantially the length of said pad and parallel to opposite sides of said pad for reducing flexibility of said pad along the direction parallel to said rods while, at the same time, permitting flexibility of said pad along the direction perpendicular to said rods; and (d) at least one parts area for holding parts~~.